

Leonard Wood Resident Office, Kansas City District.

Colonel Curtis's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr. for his exceptional commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL OTTO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man named Bill Otto who epitomizes the true cowboy in the spirit of the west. He has led an amazing life and I am privileged to stand here before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

Bill comes from a rich western history where he grew up on his father's ranch that had been homesteaded since 1904. His family had been in the ranching business for years and his grandmother used to cook for Teddy Roosevelt and helped bury Calamity Jane. As Bill's brothers and sisters went to school, he trained horses, and by the time Bill was fifteen he was rated as one of the best horse trainers in North Dakota.

Bill gained a reputation for riding the wildest horses as he spent the summers working for the Civilian Conservation Corps. After running the family ranch for a short period at age eighteen, Bill moved to California. He earned his living by grooming horses and working at a boarding stable, and later for a company that owned and rented horses used in the movies. Through a stroke of luck Bill ended up filling in for Jack Connors in a film with Roy Rogers. In 1943, Bill left Hollywood to work at a thoroughbred ranch in Valejo, California where he met his first wife Rella. Bill has spent the remainder of his life working in the Rodeo, training horses, and raising his four kids.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Otto is a talented horse trainer and dedicated family man who brings the heart of the west to life. I am honored to recognize Bill for his great zest for life and his dedication to keeping western traditions alive, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD J. O'NEAL, JR.

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. of the United States Air Force.

LTC O'Neal was sent to Khobar, Saudi Arabia, to evaluate a maintenance training pro-

gram of the Royal Saudi Air Force. On May 29, 2004, he had just finished eating breakfast at a coffee shop with a colleague, LTC James Broome III, when a group of terrorists attacked the civilian complex where they dined.

Unarmed and in search of safety, LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome headed toward the roof of a nearby building. On the way, the two soldiers came across four civilian contractors who were doing construction on the third floor of the building. LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome informed the workers of the terrorist attack below and safely escorted the civilians to the roof, where the men barricaded the door with a tool box and rocks. Amid the turmoil and gunfire, LTC O'Neal had the presence of mind to use his cell phone to gather information from other Americans he knew were in the complex and relay it to his operations center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The six men remained on the roof, waiting out the attack, for nearly twelve hours with only one water cooler they brought from the third-floor construction site. During that time, the soldiers rationed only one sip of water to each man every hour, in temperatures that reached 120-degrees Fahrenheit.

Once the group on the roof was told the terrorist forces had been isolated in another building of the compound, LTC O'Neal led the group down to the ground floor. At the bottom of the stairs, LTC O'Neal was approaching a steel door that opened up to the street when one remaining terrorist fired a machine gun at him, hitting him four times and also injuring LTC Broome. LTC O'Neal was shot in the left arm, right shoulder, right thigh, and in the torso. Crawling into a space under the stairway, LTC O'Neal remained hidden for 1½ before finally being assisted by a Saudi defense official.

American soldiers like LTC O'Neal put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism and to protect the freedoms and ideals that we as a nation cherish. For his bravery and valor, and for the wounds he received in action on May 29, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. will be awarded the Purple Heart.

It gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will be awarded this meritorious distinction. The Purple Heart is the oldest presently used military decoration in the world, dating back to its first use in the American Revolution. In the summer of 1782, General George Washington was ordered by the Continental Congress to cease granting commissions or advances in rank to soldiers in recognition of outstanding valor and merit. Shortly after, in his General Orders of August 7, 1782, General Washington directed that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding." He concluded, "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one."

Specifically a combat decoration, it gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will receive this high honor, the Purple Heart, on August 4, 2004. LTC O'Neal embodies the spirit of those who serve and fight to keep America the greatest light of freedom the world has ever known. I thank LTC O'Neal for his brave service and selfless sacrifice. He is a patriot

and a hero. May God bless LTC O'Neal and his family, and may God bless America.

HONORING WISCONSIN STATE TROOPER LES BOLDT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House, Wisconsin State Trooper Les Boldt, whose heroic efforts recently saved the life of a woman who tried to take her own life by leaping off a bridge in Green Bay.

After receiving notice from dispatchers that an area resident suffering from depression was potentially suicidal, Trooper Boldt set out to find the woman and check on her welfare. Upon locating her car, a high-speed chase ensued that led the two to the top of the Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge, at which time the woman stepped out of her car and attempted to jump off the 200-foot tall span. Realizing what was about to occur, Boldt ran from his patrol car and caught the woman's arm just after she leaped off the bridge, saving her from almost certain death. After a struggle, Boldt and two other law enforcement officials were able to safely pull the woman back over the edge, giving her a second chance at life.

Mr. Speaker, by selflessly putting his life on the line to save one of his fellow citizens, Trooper Les Boldt showed us all what it means to be truly courageous and heroic. His actions deserve our praise, and on behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you and keep up the great work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed a rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 388.

COMMEMORATING THE SUCCESSES OF THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAM

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program because it epitomizes what our country has long stood for—giving everyone an equal chance.

Employment fuels the United States economy and builds our communities. Sadly, people with disabilities are often overlooked when it comes to finding jobs. Those with disabilities face a 50 percent unemployment rate, which